

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 128523

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 6840 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

DOD JCS WHITE HOUSE 20 MAY.

QUOTE

S E C R E T MANILA 6840

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR RP CH VN TW

SUBJ: DISPUTED TERRITORIES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

REF: STATE 116037

1. REFTTEL, WHICH OUTLINES OUR FIRM, UNFLINCHING POLICY ON THE SPRATLYS, WAS SENT WITHOUT ANY LIMITATIONS ON ITS DISTRIBUTION. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT IT BE CAPTIONED EXDIS AND THAT DISTRIBUTED COPIES BE RECALLED. IF ITS CONTENTS WERE EVER TO COME TO ATTENTION OF FILIPINOS, THEY WOULD CONFIRM THEIR WORST FEARS AND SUSPICIONS

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CONCERNING VALUE OF U.S. TREATY COMMITMENTS.

2. I WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT COPY BE FURNISHED CINCPAC
SO THAT OPERATIONAL COMMANDERS ARE AWARE OF POLICY GUIDANCE.

3. WHEN YOU REVIEW CONTINGENCIES, PLEASE EXAMINE SITUATION
IN WHICH PHILIPPINE NAVAL VESSEL, ON HIGH SEAS, ATTEMPTING
TO REACH SPRATLEYS FOR PURPOSE EXTRACTING PHILIPPINE
GARRISON COMES UNDER ATTACK OR THREAT OF ATTACK FROM
VIETNAMESE NAVAL VESSELS AND SEEKS U.S. NAVAL AND AIR
PROTECTION. I THINK I CAN IMAGINE WHAT THE "PREFERRED
LEGAL POSITION" WOULD BE, BUT HAVE THE UNEASY FEELING
THAT SUCH A CONTINGENCY IS FAR MORE PALPABLE THAN
WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO ASSUME.

4. FINALLY, I TRUST IT IS WELL REALIZED THAT THERE IS A
DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR SECURITY TREATY COMMITMENTS
AND THE TENURE OF U.S. BASES HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES. IF
WE CAN EXTRAPOLATE THE "PREFERRED LEGAL POSITION" TO
INCLUDE THE ENTIRE ARCHIPELAGO WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE
TERRITORY ON WHICH OUR BASES ARE BUILT, THEN WE MUST
ASSUME THAT GOP WOULD BE QUITE SENSIBLE IN ABROGATING THE
DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND DEMANDING OUR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL
FROM THE BASES. THIS IS CLEARLY THE ISSUE WHICH THE GOP
WANTS US TO FACE UNEQUIVOCALLY IN THE REASSESSMENT
REPORTEDLY BEING UNDERTAKEN IN WASHINGTON.
SULLIVAN UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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NNN

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